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ABSTRACT

This book for beginning readers tells the story of a South African priest and his wife who are ashamed when their daughter tells them she is going to have a baby. They refuse to have anything to do with her when she is pregnant. However, when the baby comes, everything changes and they come to accept and love the baby. Large black and white illustrations accompany the story. A facilitator's guide presents information for teaching people who are learning to read for the first time or for people who are learning to read in a second language. (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse for ESL Literacy Education) (SM)

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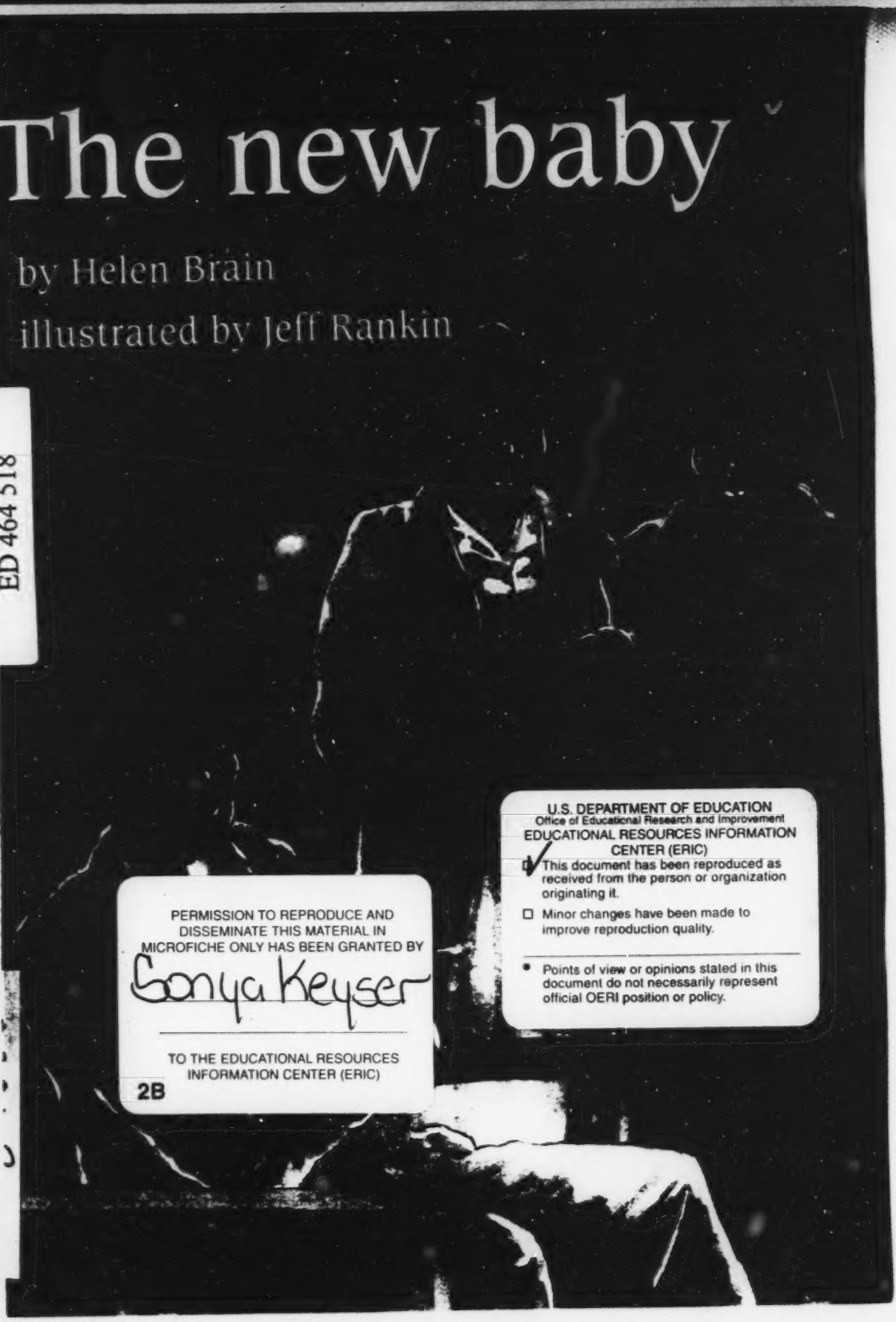
The new baby

by Helen Brain

illustrated by Jeff Rankin



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The new baby

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The new baby

Written by Helen Brain

Illustrated by Jeff Rankin

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In May my daughter came to me. "Mama," she said, "I'm going to have a baby."

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"You're only seventeen," I shouted at her. "How could you be so stupid?"

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"What will the people in the church say? What will your father say?"

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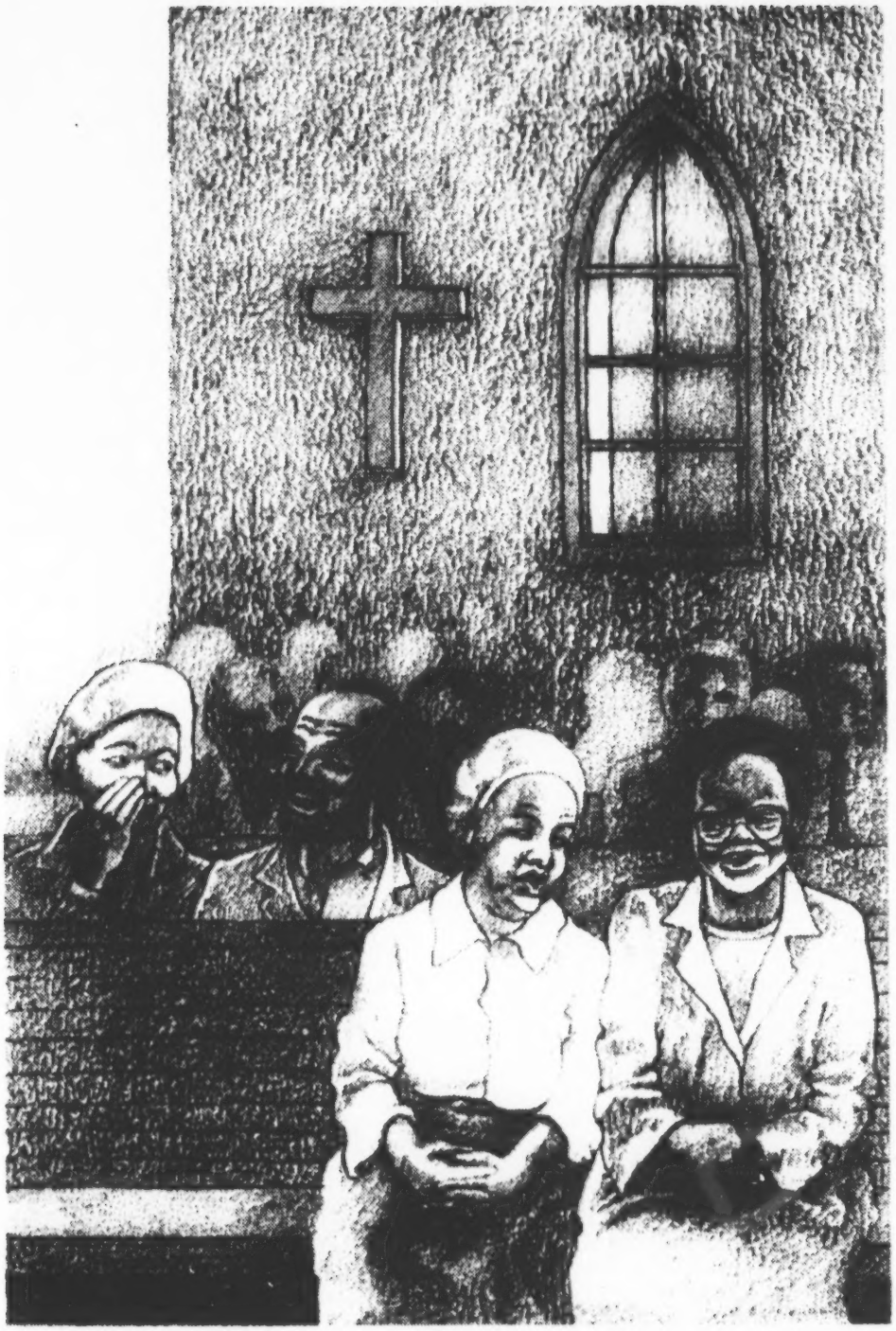

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Her father was very angry. "I am glad my dear mother is not alive to see this," he shouted at her. "She would have been very ashamed."

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"You are the child of a priest. You should not have let this happen."

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For seven months he would not talk to her. "I want nothing to do with her," he told me. "She has brought shame on our family."

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Last week my daughter's pains started. I took her to the hospital.

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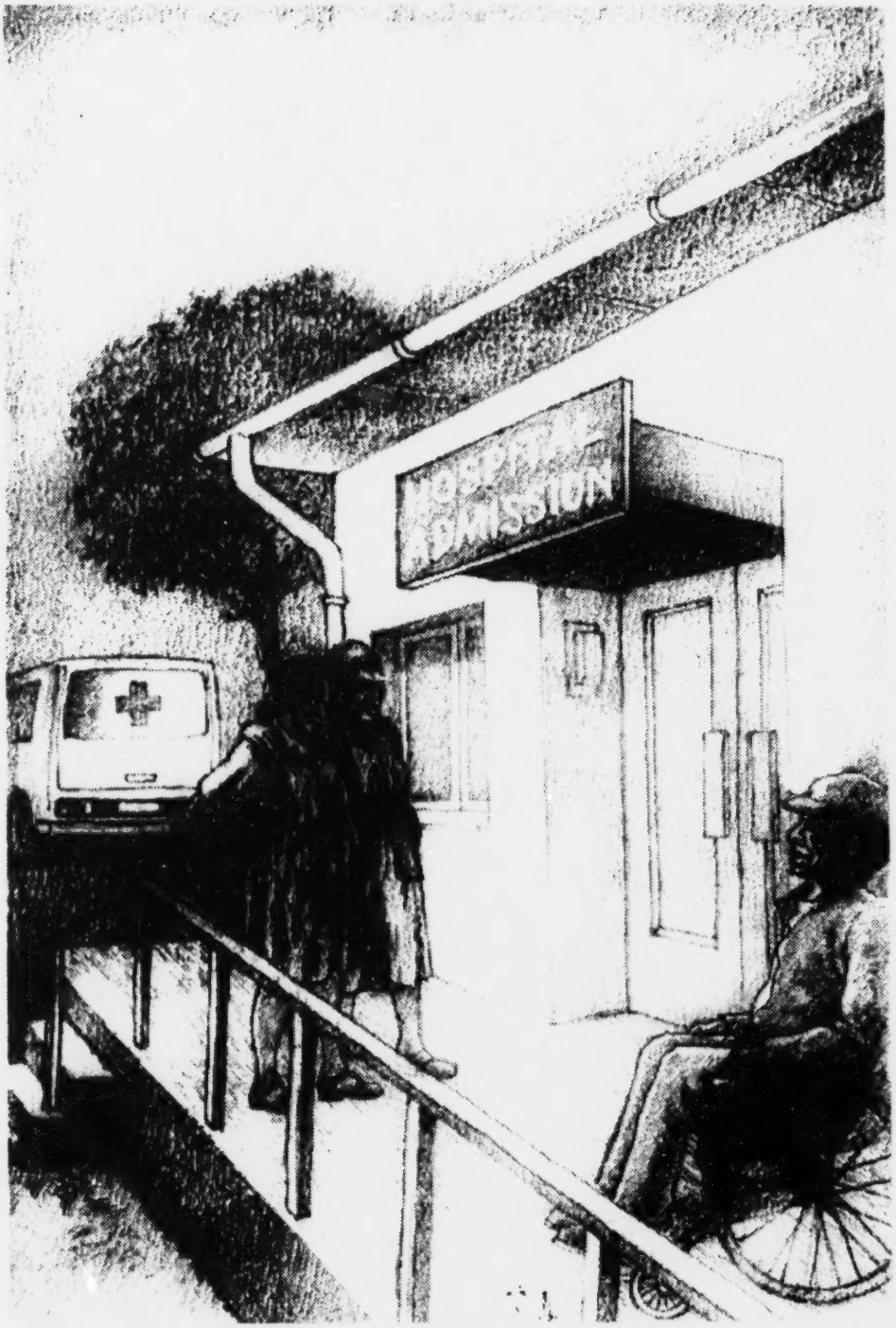

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On Monday I fetched her. We came home with the baby. Her father was still angry.

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But then I showed him the baby.

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He looked at his granddaughter. She opened her eyes and looked at him too.

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"Maria," he said to me. His eyes were full of tears. "Maria, this child looks like my dear late mother."

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He kissed the baby. Then he kissed our daughter.

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"Thanks be to God," he said. "I am a grandfather."

THE END

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Thanks

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THE NEW READERS PROJECT

The New Readers Project of the Department of Adult and Community Education, University of Natal, Durban, develops and supports adult literacy and basic English Second Language skills by producing books in simple language for the entertainment and education of adults.

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A priest and his wife are ashamed when their daughter tells them she is going to have a baby. When the baby comes, everything changes.

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